



## 2021 Grand Island Creative Arts Competition **Creative Writing Division** Entry Packet

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*Veterans must be enrolled to receive care at a central/western Nebraska VA location  
prior to entering the competition*

### **Grand Island VA Local Creative Arts Competition**

All Visual Art and Creative Writing entries submitted will be on display during the **2021 Nebraska State Fair August 27<sup>th</sup> - September 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Nebraska Building at Fonner Park in Grand Island, NE

The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. There are also categories in creative writing which include poetry, personal essays, short stories, and scripts and include a special category for written work related to military experience

- This packet is for **CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION** entries only. Art Division entries must submit a different entry form.
- Creative Writing entries must be submitted as a word document, *electronically* via email to [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov)
- It is extremely important that all participants read the **CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION RULES** on page 6. Entries that do not meet the requirements will be disqualified

**\*\*A competition entry form (page 3) and signed consent (pages 4-5) are **required**\*\***

Please return your completed application, signed consent and competition entry to:

**Alicia Wicht**  
**Whole Health – Building 6**  
**2201 N. Broadwell Ave**  
**Grand Island NE 68803**  
**Phone: 308-395-3404**  
**Email: [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov)**

**All submissions and entry forms are due by Friday, August 13, 2021 by 4pm**

**For more information regarding competition rules and regulations, please visit:**

[https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/Grand\\_Island.asp](https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/Grand_Island.asp)

# General Information

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**ALL CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES** must be submitted as a word document, **electronically** to: [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov).

**\*\*Paper copies can be submitted *in addition* to electronic copies for display purposes only\*\***

*(Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)*

## Multiple Entries

Veterans are permitted to enter up to 3 pieces of artwork but cannot enter more than 1 per individual category (see category list on page 7). A separate entry form is required for each category entered. Entry form can be found on page 3 of this packet.  
packet.

## GIVA Local Creative Arts Competition

All Creative Arts Competition entries submitted will be on display during the **2021 Nebraska State Fair August 27<sup>th</sup>-September 6<sup>th</sup> in the Nebraska Building at Fonner Park in Grand Island, NE.**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons will be awarded and placed on winning entries on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Participants **do not** need to be present to win. Winners of the local competition will be notified by telephone during the week of August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## National Veteran's Creative Arts Competition

Electronic copies of all local First-place winning entries in each Creative Writing Category will be submitted to the National Creative Writing Division Competition Judging. The National Veterans Creative Arts competition **judging phase will occur in October and November of 2021.** *National Competition winners will be contacted via telephone by the VA Creative Arts Chair in late December.* All other National participants will be mailed a National Veteran's Creative Arts Competition and Festival Certificate of Recognition.

All gold medal winners from the National Competition will be invited to participate in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in St. Petersburg, Florida April 18-25, 2022.

Please return your completed application, signed consent and competition entry to:

Alicia Wicht  
Whole Health – Building 6  
2201 N. Broadwell Ave  
Grand Island NE 68803  
Phone: 308-395-3404  
Email: [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov)

**All submissions and entry forms are due by Friday, August 13, 2021 by 4pm.**

# Creative Writing Division Entry Form

Category numbers descriptions can be found on page 7 of this packet.

*\*Please complete all **BOLDED** sections*

<b>Category Number:</b>	
<b>Category Name:</b>	
<b>Title of Piece:</b>	

Word Document File Name (VA staff use only)	
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## **Individual Entry – For entries submitted by one Veteran.**

<b>Veteran Name:</b>	
<b>Veteran E-mail:</b>	
<b>Veteran Address:</b>	
<b>Veteran Phone Number:</b>	

## **Group Entry – For an entry submitted by a group of Veterans into Category #15 – Special Recognition.**

<b>Group Name:</b>	
<b>Number of Veterans in Group:</b>	

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>

### **Veterans:**

**Initial**

I/we confirm that this piece is written entirely by me/us.	
I/we have read all the rules for the creative writing division.	

### **VA Staff:**

**Initial**

I confirm that the Veterans entering the competition above meet eligibility criteria as specified on page 5 and are approved to enter the 2021 NVCA Competition as representatives of this VA facility.	
I confirm that the Veterans entering the competition above have signed the necessary consent forms (10-3203 and if necessary, 10-5345) to enter the 2021 NVCA Competition.	

**All submissions and entry forms are due by Friday, August 13, 2021 by 4pm**

Alicia Wicht – Grand Island VA  
Whole Health – Building 6  
Phone: 308-395-3404  
Email: [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov)

Every Veteran must sign this form to compete in the local and national level of competition.



**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**CONSENT FOR PRODUCTION AND USE OF VERBAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DIGITAL IMAGES, AND/OR VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS BY VA**

**Name of individual whose statement, likeness, or voice is requested:**

**NOTE:** The execution of this form does not authorize production or use of materials except as specified below. The specified material may be produced and used by VA for authorized purposes identified below, such as education of VA personnel, research activities, or promotional efforts. It may also be disclosed outside VA as permitted by law and as noted below. If the material is part of a VA system of records, it may be disclosed outside VA as stated in the "Routine Uses" in the "VA Privacy Act Systems of Records" published in the Federal Register.

The purpose of this form is to document your consent to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) request to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement or a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording containing your likeness or voice. By signing this form, you are authorizing the production or use only as specified below.

You are NOT REQUIRED TO CONSENT TO VA's REQUEST to obtain, produce, and/or use your statement, likeness, or voice. Your decision to consent or refuse will not affect your access to any present or future VA benefits for which you are eligible.

You may rescind your consent at any time prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, or before or during your provision of a verbal or written statement. You may rescind your consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs and the ease of compliance of the number of parties involved and **the Veteran's VA facility and the Dept. of VA Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events.**

The photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording will be produced while I am (describe the activity or situation) **(To Be Completed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, if applicable)**

A participant in an adaptive sport or creative arts therapy program sponsored by the Veteran's VA facility and the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events (NVSP&SE) and the American Legion Auxiliary.

**Check at least one of the following (to be completed by VA)**

☒ I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to produce a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording of me (or of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

☒ I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to obtain or use a verbal or written statement from me (or the of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

I consent to allowing VA to record and use a verbal or written statement, or produce and use photographs, digital images, and video or audio recording for the purpose(s) identified below:

This product will be used: (NOTE: At least one of these boxes must be checked as well as a purpose described below) (to be completed by VA)

☒ Internally (stay within VA) ☒ Externally (shared outside VA)

**Please check the applicable purpose(s) (to be completed by VA)**

**Promotional Efforts:**

☒ Internal Publication (only VA) ☒ External publication (publicly available)

☒ Other (Specify): Newspapers, radio stations, television stations, participant profiles, souvenir program booklet and DVD, and other media outlets. In addition, VA may release this information to sponsor organizations of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events in the form of other media products to promote the positive aspects of creative arts therapy.

**Research Activities:** ☒ Study

**Education Purposes:**

☒ Presentation ☒ Conference ☒ Publication in a Journal ☒ Training

☐ Other (Specify):

**VA ONLY Use:**

☐ Performance Improvement ☐ Quality Improvement ☐ Health Care Operations

☐ Other (Specify):

☒ All of the Above

**NOTE:** Do not sign this form unless one or more of the boxes above has been checked.

I have read and understand the foregoing, and I consent to the use of a verbal or written statement from me, and/or of my likeness and/or voice as specified for the above-described purpose(s). I understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation of any kind will be made to me by the United States for such use. I understand that consent to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, and video or audio recording containing my likeness or voice is voluntary, and my refusal will not adversely affect my access to any present or future VA benefits for which I am eligible. I further understand that I may, at any time, rescind my consent prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording. I also understand that I may rescind my consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs, the ease of compliance, and the number of parties involved.

<b>Print Veteran Full Name (First and Last Name)</b>	<b>Veteran Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Permission Obtained By (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> <b>Print VA Employee Full Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Signature of Person Obtaining Consent (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> <b>Print VA Employee Full Name</b>	<b>VA Employee Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

**IMPORTANT:** If VA is providing or releasing any patient health or demographic information with the verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, VA Form 10-5345, Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information, is required prior to the release of such data to any source outside VA.

# Creative Writing Division Rules

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Entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division will be judged based upon the merit of the original work, creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality of topic or idea, and overall strength.

All gold medal winners from the national competition in the creative writing division will be invited to attend a writing seminar at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

**ALL CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES** must be submitted as a word document, **electronically** to: [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov).

*\*\*Paper copies can be submitted in addition to electronic copies for display purposes only\*\*  
(Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)*

**Note:** All *National* gold, bronze, and silver creative writing winning entries will be printed in a booklet post-competition.

- Entries in the creative writing division must have been completed after April 1, 2020.
- All entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division must be original compositions written solely by the eligible Veteran who is submitting the entry.
- Entries must be submitted as Word documents in 12-point font. Do not send PDF attachments.
- Entries must be submitted as text only. Do not send documents with pictures or graphics. Only the text of the entry will be judged.
- Veteran's name, VA facility, category, and title of the piece **must be included** at the top of the Word document
- If an entry has won a gold medal in the creative writing division at the national level in any category it MAY NOT BE re-submitted into the Creative Writing division in a subsequent year.
- National Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
- Collections of poems, essays, stories, etc. submitted as one entry will not be allowed.

*Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the competition results in late December 2021.*

**Word documents need be submitted electronically via email to [alicia.wicht@va.gov](mailto:alicia.wicht@va.gov)**

# Creative Writing Categories

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1. **Poetry Rhyming** - A verse composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
2. **Poetry Non-Rhyming** - A composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
3. **Personal Essay** - A non-fiction composition based on something the writer has experienced or felt. Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words.
4. **Humor** - All types of works which employ humor as the primary component should be submitted in this category. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**
5. **Short, Short Story** - A short story, no longer than 1,000 words in length. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end.
6. **Short Script** - Part of a short script for one or more characters, documenting the movement, actions, expression, and dialogue of the characters. Entries in this category must be no longer than 850 words in length.
7. **Military Experience Poetry** – Poetry entries related to military experience should be submitted in this category. Entries must be **no longer than 48 lines in length.**
8. **Military Experience (not poetry)** – Entries (not poetry) related to military experience should be submitted in this category. **Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words.**
9. **Special Recognition** - Individual or group. Entries by Veterans who exhibit creative expression through use of creative writing while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where individuals use artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
- Consent form 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.